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Senate makes swift progress on JOBS plan

Lansing – Just two weeks after its introduction, the legislative Republicans’ JOBS package has made significant progress in the Senate. JOBS – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – is the nine-point plan proposed by Senate and House Republicans to jumpstart Michigan’s economy and get Michigan residents back to work.

“Moving this legislation along is a top priority right now,” said Sen. Patty Birkholz (R-Saugatuck Twp), one of the legislation’s sponsors. “Bringing business to Michigan is crucial to create new jobs and improve our economic condition. With the holidays approaching, we are doing everything we can to get people back to work and financially secure.”

To date, the Michigan Senate has acted on seven of the nine JOBS package components. Action taken includes:

- Both the Senate and the House have now passed legislation to establish a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to accelerate the cleanup of abandoned brownfields. The bills passed the Senate Nov. 6 and the House Wednesday.
- The Senate Thursday unanimously passed legislation to expedite the 2002 voter-approved Sewer Bond Initiative, allowing communities to start much-needed sewer projects sooner.
- Legislation to revitalize the state’s floundering tool & die industry was introduced Oct. 30. The Senate overwhelmingly passed four bills and three resolutions Thursday. The remaining four bills are being reviewed in committee.

(More)

- The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Thursday favorably reported legislation that creates incentives to spur new venture capital investment in Michigan businesses, particularly in the high-tech and life-sciences industries.
- The Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Thursday favorably reported legislation calling on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide a small-business “czar” and a manufacturing “czar.”
- Legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Michigan Economic Growth Authority was unanimously passed Wednesday.

The remaining components, legislation that provides a tax incentive for small start-up businesses by exempting them from most taxes during their first two years of operation and legislation to implement forest management changes to protect the environment and create new job opportunities in Michigan’s timber industry, will be introduced soon.

The JOBS plan was introduced Oct. 27 to help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small-business investment for more job opportunities, and provide incentives to expand the state’s slow-moving economy by getting Michigan residents back to work.

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